

Council on the Status of Women
June 16, 2011 – 10 a.m. to 12 Noon
1604 Santa Rosa Drive, DSS Central Region Office 1st floor, Richmond
Adopted December 1, 2011

Norfolk - A Place for Girls, Girl Scout Council of Colonial Coast
912 Cedar Road, Chesapeake, VA 23322

Alexandria - Mandala Research
429 N. St. Asaph, Alexandria, VA 22314

In attendance:

Judy Collins, Chairwoman	Laura Mandala
Theresa Preda	Ben Greenberg
Amelia Ross-Hammond	Marcella Germanotta
Annie Kasper	Maricel Quintana-Baker

Staff: Nikki Nicholau

Guest: Annie Magnet, Executive Director, Science Museum of Virginia Foundation

The meeting was called to order by the chairwoman at 10:15 a.m.

The agenda was accepted as distributed.

The minutes of the April 6 meeting were approved with two corrections to add Dr. before the names of Dr. Quintana-Baker and Dr. Ross-Hammond.

Track II: STEM

The chairwoman introduced Annie Magnet, Executive Director of the Science Museum of Virginia (SMV) Foundation, who provided an overview of their efforts in the area of STEM. The Science Museum of Virginia hosts an annual fundraising and awareness breakfast, *Up & Atom*, a women's leadership event for the museum. In addition to participating in the event as a table host (there is no fee to attend), the Museum is forming a women's leadership steering committee to create year-round opportunities for women to network and to advance STEM opportunities for girls. The next event is planned for next May.

The council discussed possible partnering with the museum in the sponsorship of the planned STEM essay contest and other aspects of the essay contest.

- Council will contact First Lady McDonnell and ask her to serve as Honorary Chairwoman
- After discussion on topic of essay, the decision was to focus on the writer's aspirations which could include the impact that a mentor has made in those aspirations
- Timing: September through December 15
- The judging will take place after first of the year and to be completed by March 1
- Awards will be made at next May's *Up and Atom* breakfast at the Science Museum of Virginia

- Decision needed as to possible sponsors and sponsorship levels. Ms. Nicholau agreed to explore potential sponsors/funding for scholarships
- The SMV Foundation will be asked to serve as monetary agent for funds received. Ms. Magnet agreed to approach the museum and its foundation about this potential partnership opportunity.
- The essay contest will be publicized statewide. SMC will assist in advertising essay contest through their publications.
- Dr. Quintana-Baker reviews a list of potential judges for the essay. A scientist connected with the Science Museum will be asked to serve as one of the judges

Ms. Preda moved that the Council on the Status of Women seek to partner with the Science Museum of Virginia in the STEM Essay Contest. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Ms. Germanotta will revise the essay guidelines and post the information on the newly formed Wiki created she created for the council.

Letter to the Governor

The chairwoman's letter to the Governor as discussed at the April council meeting will be sent as follow-up to her conversation with him in May. Copies of Ms. Collins' letter to the Governor will be provided Dr. Bill Hazel, Secretary of Health and Human Resources and Martin Brown, Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Social Services.

Old Business

Track I Update

The resource directory links were found to be inoperable but have been fixed. The application form for organizations requesting to be listed has been updated after a problem was found in the descriptive area of the form.

Wiki Links

Ms. Germanotta reported that the council's page was operational and all members had been sent information on how to join. She offered to resend the information at the request of several members. The council members thanked Ms. Germanotta for developing the Wiki link for its use.

New Business

Ms. Nicholau will forward an invitation to all council members for the VDSS Strengthening Families Community Leaders meetings to be held throughout Virginia during June and July.

The next meeting will be held on September 28, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the DSS Central Region Office, 1604 Santa Rosa Rd, Hanover Room, in Richmond. The agenda will include:

- Council's work plan for 2011-12
- Annual legislative letter to Governor

The meeting was adjourned at noon.